Numb. CLXXIII.

The SPECTATOR.

——Remove fera monſtra, tuæque
Saxificos vultus, quæcunque ea, tolle Meduſæ. Ov. Met.

Tueſday, September 18. 1711.

In a late Paper I mentioned the Project of an ingenious Author for the erecting of ſeveral Handicraft Prizes to be contended for by our *Britiſh* Artizans, and the tendency they might have to the Improvement of our ſeveral Manufactures. I have ſince that been very much ſurpriz'd to find the following Advertiſement which I find in the *Post-Boy* of the 11th Inſtant, and again repeated in the *Poſt-Boy* of the 15th.

On the 9th of October next will be run for upon Coleſhill-Heath in Warwickſhire, a Plate of 6 Guineas value, 3 Heats, by any Horſe, Mare or Gelding that hath not won above the Value of 5 l. the winning Horſe to be Sold for 10 l. to carry 10 ſtone weight, if 14 Hands high, if above or under, to carry or be allowed Weight for Inches, and to be entred Friday the 5th at the Swan in Coleſhill, before 6 in the Evening. Alſo a Plate of 5 l. value to be run for by Aſſes. The ſame Day a Gold Ring to be Grinn'd for by Men.

The firſt of theſe Diverſions, that is to be exhibited by the 10 *l.* Race-Horſes, may probably have its uſe; but the two laſt, in which the Aſſes and Men are concern'd, ſeem to me altogether extraordinary and unaccountable. Why they ſhould keep running Aſſes at *Coleſhill*, or how making Mouths turns to account in *Warwickſhire*, more than in any other parts of *England*, I cannot comprehend. I have read over all the Olympick Games, and do not find any thing in them like an Aſs Race, or a Match at Grinning. However it be, I am inform'd that ſeveral Aſſes are now kept in Body-Cloaths, and Treated every Morning upon the Heath, and that all the Country Fellows within ten Miles of the *Swan*, grin an Hour or two in their Glaſſes every Morning, in order to qualifie themſelves for the 9th of *October*. The Prize which is propoſed to be grinn'd for, has raiſed ſuch an Ambition among the Common People of Out-grinning one another, that many very diſcerning Perſons are afraid it ſhould ſpoil moſt of the Faces in the Country; and that a *Warwickſhire* Man will be known by his Grinn, as Roman Catholicks imagine a *Kentiſh* Man is by his Tail. The Gold Ring which is made the Prize of Deformity, is juſt the Reverſe of the Golden Apple that was formerly made the Prize of Beauty, and ſhould carry for its Poſie the old Motto inverted.

Detur tetriori.

Or to accommodate it to the Capacity of the Combatants,

The frightfull'ſt Grinner,
Be the Winner.

In the mean while I would adviſe a *Dutch* Painter to be preſent at this great Controverſy of Faces, in order to make a Collection of the moſt remarkable Grinns that ſhall be there exhibited.

I muſt not here omit an Account which I lately received of one of theſe Grinning Matches from a Gentleman, who upon reading the above-mention'd Advertiſement, entertain'd a Coffee-houſe with the following Narrative. Upon the taking of *Namur*, amidſt other Publick Rejoicings made upon that Occaſion, there was a Gold Ring given by a Whig Juſtice of Peace to be grinn'd for. The firſt Competitor that entred the Liſts was a black ſwarthy *French* Man, who accidentally paſſed that way, and being a Man naturally of a wither'd Look, and hard Features, promiſed himſelf good Succeſs. He was placed upon a Table in the great Point of View, and looking upon the Company like *Milton's* Death,

Grinn'd horridly a Ghaſtly Smile——

His Muſcles were ſo drawn together on each ſide of his Face, that he ſhowed twenty Teeth at a Grinn, and put the County in ſome pain, leaſt a Foreigner ſhould carry away the Honour of the Day; but upon a further Tryal they found he was Maſter only of the Merry Grinn.

The

The next that mounted the Table was a Male-content in those Days, and a great Master in the whole Art of Grinning, but particularly excelled in the angry Grinn. He did his Part so well that he is said to have made half a Dozen Women miscarry; but the Justice being apprised by one who stood near him, that the Fellow who Grinned in his Face was a *Jacobite*, and being unwilling that a Disaffected Person should win the Gold Ring, and be looked upon as the best Grinner in the Country, he ordered the Oaths to be tendered him upon his quitting the Table, which the Grinner refusing, he was set aside as an unqualified Person. There were several other Grotesque Figures that presented themselves, which it would be too tedious to describe. I must not however omit a Plowman who lived in the further Part of the Country, and being very lucky in a Pair of long Lanthorn-Jaws, wrung his Face into such an hideous Grimace that every Feature of it appeared under a different Distortion. The whole Company stood astonished at such a complicated Grinn, and were ready to assign the Prize to him, had it not been proved by one of his Antagonists that he had practised with Verjuice for some Days before, and had a Crab found upon him at the very time of Grinning, upon which the best Judges of Grinning declared it, as their Opinion, that he was not to be looked upon as a fair Grinner, and therefore ordered him to be set aside as a Cheat.

The Prize, it seems, fell at length upon a Cobler, *Giles Gorgon* by Name, who produced several new Grinns of his own Invention, having been used to cut Faces for many Years together over his Last. At the very first Grinn he cast every Human Feature out of his Countenance; at the second he became the Face of a Spout; at the third a Baboon, at the fourth the Head of a Base-Viol, and at the fifth a Pair of Nut-Crackers. The whole Assembly wondered at his Accomplishments, and bestowed the Ring on him unanimously; but, what he esteemed more than all the rest, a Country Wench that he had wooed in vain for above five Years before, was so charmed with his Grinns and the Applauses which he received on all sides, that she Married him the Week following, and to this Day wears the Prize upon her Finger, the Cobler having made use of it as his Wedding Ring.

This Paper might perhaps seem very impertinent if it grew serious in the Conclusion. I would nevertheless leave it to the Consideration of those who are the Patrons of this monstrous Tryal of Skill, whether or no they are not guilty, in some measure, of an Affront to their Species, in treating after this manner the *Human Face Divine*, and turning that part of us, which has so great an Image impressed upon it, into the Image of a Monkey; whether the raising such silly Competitions among the Ignorant, proposing Prizes for such useless Accomplishments, filling the common Peoples Heads with such Senseless Ambitions, and inspiring them with such absurd Ideas of Superiority and Preheminence, has not in it something Immoral as well as Ridiculous.

Compleat Setts of this Paper, for the Month of August, are to be sold by Mr. Graves in St. James's Street; Mrs. Bond at the Old Vine at Charing Cross; Mr. Lewis under Tom's Coffee-House, Covent-Garden; Mr. Lillie, Perfumer, at the Corner of Beauford-Buildings; Mrs. Treganey, near Essex-Street; Mrs. Boulter next the Rose Tavern at Temple Bar; Mr. Sanger at the Temple Gate; Mr. Lloyd near the Church in the Temple; Mr. Knapton in St. Paul's Church-Yard; Mr. Round in Exchange Alley, and Mrs. Baldwin in Warwick-lane; where also may be had those for the Months of March, April, May, June and July.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

To be Sold by Auction,

On Friday the 21st Instant, at 10 in the Morning, the Household Goods of the late Lady Stroud, at her late Dwelling House the Upper end of Hatton Garden, a Hatchment over the Door, a Couch sitting on a Crimson Velvet Bed and Chairs, other Beds and Bedding, Looking Glasses, fine Tapistry Hangings, Carpets, and all sorts of Kitchen Ware, and a large Iron Chest: The Goods to be seen on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday before the Sale. And Catalogues to be had at the Place of Sale.

The great Success that excellent Remedy of Mr. Pointer, Surgeon, has had upon my Child, most grievously afflicted by the utmost Severity of Pain in the breeding and Cutting of his Teeth, does truly deserve a much better Encomium than I am able to give it; I shall only say, that it has proved a visible Instrument in the Hand of Providence for the saving this poor Infant's Life. Wants may be had of P. de Collombier, at the Golden Still by the Seven Dyals, St. Giles in the Fields. The said Remedy is sold at 2s. 6d. the Vial, by Mr. Alcraft at the Blew-Coat Boy against the Royal Exchange, Cornhill; Mr. Lillie, Perfumer next Beauford-buildings in the Strand; Mr. Watkins Tobacconist against the Market, in King-street Westminster, and by the Author aforesaid, at his House in Dyot-street near Bloomsbury; who has also a speedy, easy and effectual Method for the Cure of Dropsical Distempers.

Loss of Memory or Forgetfulness, certainly Cured. By a grateful Electuary peculiarly adapted for that end; it strikes at the Prime Cause (which few apprehend) of Forgetfulness, makes the Head clear and easie, the Spirits free, active and undisturb'd; invigorates and revives all the noble Faculties of the Soul, fixes the Judgment, Apprehension, Reason and Memory; which last it recruits so strengthens, as to render that Faculty exceeding quick and good beyond Imagination; thereby enabling those whose Memory was before almost totally lost, to remember the Minutest Circumstances of their Affairs, &c. to a wonder. Price 2s. 6d. a Pot. Sold only at Mr. Payne's at the Angel and Crown in St. Paul's Church-yard near Cheapside with Directions.

The Retir'd Gard'ner, or, Dialogues between a Gentleman and a Gard'ner: Containing the Methods of Making, Ordering and Improving a Fruit and Kitchin-Garden, together with the Manner of Planting and Cultivating Flowers, Plants, Herbs and Under-Shrubs, necessary for the Adorning of Gardens, &c. To which is explain'd, the Art of Making and Disposing of Parterres, Arbours of Greens, Wood-Works, Arches, Columns, and other Pieces and Compartments usually found in the most beautiful Gardens of Country-Seats. The whole enrich'd with Variety of Figures, being a Translation from the Sieur Louis Liger. To which is added, a Description and Plan of Count Tallard's Garden at Nottingham. The whole Revis'd, with several Alterations and Additions, which render it proper for our English Culture. By George London, and Henry Wise. Printed for Jacob Tonson at Shakespear's Head over against Catherine-Street in the Strand.

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